

How to Treat Cedar-Apple Fungus

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Apple trees in blossom.

A potentially destructive rust disease targets the cedar and apple trees. The complicated life cycle of cedar-apple fungus is not complete until it has infected both trees. Caused by a variety of *Gymnosporangium* species fungal pathogens, cedar-apple disease results in the growth of galls on cedars and the malformation of fruit as well as early leaf drop on apple trees. The disease will not re-infect or kill your tree unless both cedars and apples are present.

Instructions

Things You'll Need:

- Pruning shears
 - Gardening gloves
 - Fungicides
1. Provide consistent care to both apple and cedar trees as vigorous plants have a greater capacity for fighting off and overcoming disease problems when compared to weakened trees.
 2. Verify that the disease in question is cedar-apple fungus by identifying tell-tale symptoms. Look for vivid yellow-orange spots on leaves of apple trees, as well as pale fungal growths beneath leaves. Search for light brown galls, or swellings, on cedar trees that display vibrant orange gel-like growths in humid weather. If you need assistance, contact your local county extension agent or a licensed tree care specialist.

3. Prune away galls from trees with only mild infection as a means of reducing disease spread. Remove and destroy affected plant parts and debris.
4. Protect apple trees with a spray at bud break. Use a fungicide containing the active ingredient mancozeb or myclobutanil through spring to prevent infection from cedar-spread spores.
5. Avoid attempting to treat your cedar tree with a chemical fungicide. Injury caused by cedar-apple fungus is not considered severe enough to warrant chemical applications, and---according to University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension---they are not effective. Consistent care, including the removal of galls, is the best management method. Engage the services of a licensed tree care specialist for severe infection.
6. Ensure an adequate buffer space between cedars and apple trees. A space of one-quarter mile should separate cedar trees from apple trees when the cedar stand lies north or northwest of the apple trees. If the cedar trees are located to the south or southwest of the apple trees, a space of one mile is required.
7. Prevent repeat infections by simply removing either apple trees or cedar trees. If you replace them, choose a resistant tree. Dayton apple trees, for example, are recommended for Oklahoma. Discuss the best trees for your region with your extension agent.

Read more: [How to Treat Cedar-Apple Fungus | eHow.com](http://www.ehow.com/how_7479317_treat-cedarapple-fungus.html#ixzz1DwoK2PSj)
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